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UNCLAS MADRID 002630

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/IHA (REBECCA DALEY) AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SPAIN LIKELY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO  
POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

REF: SECSTATE 118559

1. ESTHOFF made reftel points June 29 to Health Ministry Deputy Director General for International Affairs Jose Perez Lazaro, thanking Spain for its 2004 contribution to the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) and requesting additional Spanish contributions to help meet the PEI's 50 million dollar 2005 funding gap.

2. Perez Lazaro contacted ESTHOFF July 13 to report that Spain had received an identical request from PEI co-leaders UNICEF and the WHO. After receiving all these requests, Health Minister Salgado recommended that the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (Spain's AID equivalent) provide additional unobligated 2005 funds to the PEI. Although a final decision has not yet been made, Perez Lazaro said it was very likely that Spain would be able to provide additional funds to the PEI later this calendar year. He said he was not yet in a position to discuss the size of this likely additional contribution.

3. Regarding our request for Spanish help in meeting the anticipated 200 million dollar 2006 PEI funding gap, Perez Lazaro noted that the nature of the Spanish budget process made it unlikely that Spain could obligate 2006 funds for the PEI during the course of 2005. He said Spain would keep the PEI in mind when it finalizes 2006 assistance budget plans.  
AGUIRRE